

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03187 132305Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7101

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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SUBJ: EANES-FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

REF: (A) LISBON 3154 (DTG 121515Z MAY 76), (B) LISBON 3177

(DTG 131148Z MAY 76)

SUMMARY: THE MEMBERSHIP OF A NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE EANES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY WAS ANNOUNCED MAY 12, THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES SIXTEEN DISTINGUISHED SOCIALISTS AND INDEPENDENTS. CENTRAL MILITARY REGION COMMANDER CHARAIS ANNOUNCED FOR EANES MAY 12. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT EANES: THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE EANES PRESIDENTIAL
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PAGE 02 LISBON 03187 132305Z

CANDIDACY WAS ANNOUNCED MAY 12 (REF A). THE COMMITTEE

IS COMPOSED OF SIXTEEN DISTINGUISHED SOCIALISTS AND
INDEPENDENTS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF PROMINENT JOURNALISTS.
MEMBERS ARE:

-- VASCO DA GAMA FERNANDES: PS CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT OF
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC;
-- RAUL REGO: PS EDITOR OF "A LUTA;"
-- VICTOR CUNHA REGO: PS EDITOR OF "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS;"
-- CARLOS MOTA PINTO: PPD DISSIDENT AND FORMER PPD
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FLOOR LEADER, A POSSIBLE PARTICIPANT
IN PS GOVERNMENT;
-- CARLOS MACEDO: FORMER STATE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, A PPD
DISSIDENT AND POSSIBLE MINISTER IN A PS GOVERNMENT;
-- MILLER GUERRA: PS DEPUTY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY;
-- VITORINO NEMESIO: CONSERVATIVE EDITOR OF "O DIA;"
-- FRANCISCO DE SOUSA TAVARES: EDITOR OF "A CAPITAL;"
-- MARIA DE LOURDES BELCHIOR: INDEPENDENT STATE SECRETARY
FOR CULTURE IN SECOND-FOURTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENTS,
POSSIBLE PS CHOICE FOR EDUCATION MINISTER;
-- VITORINO MAGALHAES GODINHO: PS MINISTER OF EDUCATION
IN SECOND AND THIRD PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENTS;
-- MIGUEL TORGA: PS MEMBER AND ONE OF PORTUGAL'S
BEST KNOWN AUTHORS;
-- ANGELO VIDAL DE ALMEIDA RIBEIRO: PRESIDENT OF PORTUGUESE
BAR ASSOCIATION;
-- MANUEL LAPA RODRIGUES: PS CANDIDATE FOR THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY, EDITOR AND JOURNALIST;
-- SOPHIA DE MELO BREYNER: PS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY AND
WELL KNOWN LITERARY FIGURE;
-- ANTONIO MANUEL AZEVEDO GOMES: PROFESSOR OF AGRONOMY
AT LISBON UNIVERSITY;
-- GUSTAVO SOROMENHO: PS ACTIVIST AND OWNER OF SOCIALIST "A
REPUBLICA."

2. CHARAIS ENDORSES EANES: CENTRAL MILITARY REGION COMMANDER
CHARAIS SAID THAT EANES REPRESENTED THE THINKING OF THE
VAST MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY, AND EXTENDED "HIS BEST
WISHES FOR THE NEW BATTLE WHICH EANES IS UNDERTAKING."
EANES, WHILE VISITING THE CENTRAL REGION, TOLD PRESS THAT ALL
INDICATIONS ARE THAT "I WILL DECIDE TO RUN."

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PAGE 03 LISBON 03187 132305Z

3. PCP CONTACTS CANDIDATES: THE PCP CONDUCTED A SERIES
OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CANDIDATES EVEN WHILE
NEGOTIATING WITH SOARES (REF B). FOLLOWING CUNHAL'S MAY 11
MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO AND NORTHERN PCP LEADERS
MET WITH PRIES VELOSO IN OPORTO ON MAY 12.

4. COMMENT: THE FORMATION OF THE EANES ELECTION COMMITTEE

MARKS THE FIRST IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD PROMOTING HIS
CANDIDACY AMONG THE VOTING POPULATION. THE
COMMITTEE'S SIZE WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE, BUT ITS INITIAL
WEIGHTING WITH SOCIALIST AND OPPONENTS OF THE FORMER
REGIME WILL HELP DISPEL ANY IMPRESSION THAT EANES IS
A CANDIDATE OF THE RIGHT. THE HEAVY PS REPRESENTATION
ALSO UNDERSCORES EANES'S RELIANCE UPON SOCIALIST SUPPORT
TO WIN. THE INCLUSION OF PROMINENT EDITORS AND
JOURNALISTS SIGNALS THE WIDESPREAD BACKING THAT
EANES CAN EXPECT IN THE MEDIA.
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